

CURRICULUM REFORM



“Adding wings to caterpillars does not create butterflies. It creates awkward and dysfunctional caterpillars. Butterflies are created through transformation.”
Stephanie Marshall (1996)

New Undergraduate Curriculum: 3 and 4 Years

香港大學本科課程新學制



The Enabling Curriculum Structure

HKU's new undergraduate curriculum adopts an enabling structure that assures flexibility for students to design their own combination of disciplinary majors, minors and electives. Students will be able to optimize or change their subject choices within and outside their home Faculties under proper academic advising. The enabling curriculum structure creates opportunities for students to engage in diverse learning experiences such as academic exchange, internship, work placement or community service. In the 4-year curriculum from 2012, the credit requirement for both the English and Chinese languages will be raised to strengthen students' language abilities.

香港大學四年制本科課程要求學生於四年內修畢240學分，並鼓勵學生在指定框架內靈活選擇最感興趣的科目，自行創造主修、副修及選修課程各項組合。在四年制課程下，港大對中、英文科目學分要求同時提高，以求加強學生語文能力。

Common Learning Experiences

Common learning experiences are developed for all HKU undergraduates throughout their University studies so that there are common attributes that they could be expected to have acquired upon graduation. These experiences are designed to develop students' generic and intellectual capabilities, and they will cultivate the core moral and civic values of a democratic society.

所有港大學生將共享一系列共同學習體驗，從核心課程到總結性學習體驗等，新課程的各項重要元素將更全面地培養學生多元思維及共通能力，亦令學生具備民主社會所需的道德及公民意識。

Component 構成元素	Courses 科目	No. of Credits ¹ 學分要求	% of Total No. of Credits 佔總學分比例	No. of Credits ¹ 學分要求	% of Total No. of Credits 佔總學分比例
		2010 New 3-Year Curriculum³ 新三年制課程		2012 New 4-Year Curriculum 新四年制課程	
Compulsory Courses 必修	Common Core 核心課程	12 credits	11.7%	36 credits	22.5%
	English 英語	6 credits		12 credits	
	Chinese 中文	3 credits		6 credits	
Specialization ² 專業	Major 主修	60 - 96 credits	33.3% - 53.3%	72 - 96 credits	30% - 40%
	Minor 副修	36 - 48 credits	20% - 26.7%	36 - 48 credits	15% - 20%
Electives 選修		Remainder to complete 180 credits	8.3% - 35%	Remainder to complete 240 credits	17.5% - 32.5%
Total Number of Required Credits ⁴ 總學分要求		180 credits	100%	240 credits	100%

¹ 6 credits = 120-180 student workload hours

² Some professional curricula have been approved to adopt a 'professional core' for their disciplinary studies.

³ A new 3-year curriculum is introduced in 2010, closely modeled on the 4-year (2012) curriculum in order to benefit F7 graduates entering in 2010-2012.

⁴ A maximum credit limit is imposed to ensure space for students to engage in co- and extra-curricular activities.

Students are allowed to take additional credits up to 6 credits per semester and graduate with a total of 216 credits (2010) / 288 credits (2012).

COMMON LEARNING EXPERIENCES

共同學習體驗



First Year Experience and Academic Induction

入學首年歷程及學習介紹

As students enter HKU, they will connect with the University community to foster a sense of identity as members of HKU. Academic and non-academic induction programmes will facilitate students' transition from secondary to university education. The Academic Advising Office is now established to coordinate advising activities across Faculties. Students will also be introduced to ways of learning, behaving and living that are conducive to their academic success and psychological and physical wellness.

English as Medium of Learning and lingua franca

英語為學習媒介及共通語言

HKU is an English-medium university in which lectures and tutorials are conducted in English. In the 4-Year Undergraduate Curriculum, students will take 12 credits of English language, 6 of which in the form of "English in the discipline" that provides English training specific to students' study disciplines.

As an international university, English is used as the *lingua franca* on campus. It is the common language used for seminars, forums and other events for inclusive participation by Chinese and non-Chinese speaking students and staff.

Common Core Curriculum

核心課程

The HKU Common Core Curriculum is the centrepiece of the new undergraduate curriculum. It provides the key common learning experience for all HKU students, and it stimulates students' intellectual curiosity to explore issues of profound significance to humankind. Common Core courses are taught by professors from all Faculties. From academic year 2010-11, around 90 courses are being offered. This will increase to over 150 by 2012-2013.

Please visit <http://commoncore.hku.hk> for more details on HKU's Common Core Curriculum.

Experiential Learning

體驗學習

Experiential learning is a very powerful form of learning and it will be one of the fundamental elements of HKU's new undergraduate curriculum. It takes learning outside the traditional boundary of the classroom and students have to come face-to-face with the very things they are studying. In the workplace or other settings, students have to identify the problem, communicate and negotiate with others to find solutions, and thus learn to make sense of the theoretical knowledge and see things in a different light. All Faculties have incorporated experiential learning into their curricula. Some have even made it a graduation requirement.

International Experience

國際經驗

HKU is committed to nurturing its students as global citizens and to providing them with education opportunities that foster intercultural understanding. In some Faculties, international experience is a graduation requirement. There are programmes that offer students opportunities to work in NGOs and other organizations overseas. HKU also has reciprocal student exchange programmes with over 180 partner institutions in 25 countries.

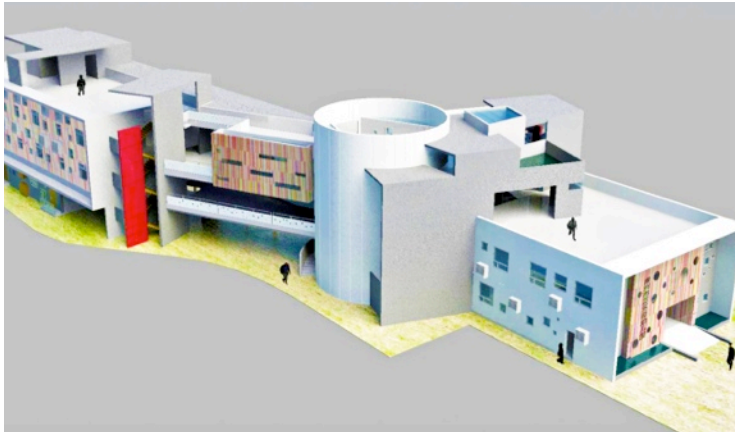
Capstone Experience and Undergraduate Research

總結性學習體驗與本科生研究訓練

The Capstone experience will be an integral part of the major programme or the "professional core" of professional curricula. Students will be engaged in projects, research, internships or other activities in their senior year(s) to integrate knowledge and skills acquired in their undergraduate studies.

Outstanding undergraduates may enroll in the Undergraduate Research Fellowship Programme (URFP) to undertake a research study under a supervisor. Students may also receive internship grant and be offered early admission into a research postgraduate programme.

Highlights of Experiential Learning



Engineering students participated in the recent Mingde Project to help reconstruct a kindergarten destroyed in the 2008 Sichuan earthquake

“Students, who are working as a team, think of themselves as the projects’ planners and developers. Delivering the project on schedule and within budget gives them a sense of satisfaction. Playing major and even decision-making roles in planning and management gives them a sense of ownership.”

Adrian LAI, BEng student majoring in Civil Engineering

Science students engaging in a 13-day ecology field trip to Kenya to study more on different habitats and ecosystems

“Don’t get the idea we’re just tourists on a photography spree; we had to hold meetings and produce summaries and checklists which became the focus of the following day’s tasks! The data we have collected is now used in the publication of the first *Chinese Field Guide to the Wildlife of East Africa*. You can study all your life, and you still wouldn’t understand a thing about this amazing world, unless explore it yourself.”

Teresa CHAN, BSc student majoring in Ecology and Biodiversity



Architecture students helped design a new school in Guangdong that would contribute to the long-term sustainable development of the local community (Qinmo Village)

“I have to deal directly with the contractor and live near the site to work out technical details and see how it really happens. It’s an experience I can’t get anywhere else.”

Arthas QIAN, BA (Architectural Studies) student



Arts student Larraine Chang found herself in the heart of the British politics, interning with a Member of Parliament (MP) in the House of Commons

“The most exciting and challenging part was to draft different response letters addressing different concerns of constituents, from demanding a tougher climate change bill to asking for more female MP of African descent representation in the Parliament. Working abroad not only showed me different working culture and ethics, but also helped me become more independent.”

Larraine CHANG, BA student majoring in European Studies



Highlights of Common Core Curriculum



Love, Marriage and Sex in Modern China

“Students are encouraged to reach out, talk to people, learn from their experiences and make films on cross-border intimacies. We have a screening event which is a dialogue between the teacher, the students and the community about what they have found through their observations, interviews and analyses. The students come to be knowledge producers rather than passive learners.”

Dr. Petula HO, Faculty of Social Sciences

Poverty, Development, and the Next Generation: Challenges for a Global World

“Instead of depicting a bleak picture of the future, we try to show students that we can change the world! They evaluate problems we face, including ever-growing mass consumerism, increasing inequality, global pandemics, resource depletion, and environmental deterioration. These problems show the need to reinvent the planet as a more equal and caring place.”

Dr Bjorn NORDTVEIT, Faculty of Education



Highlight of International Experience



Social Sciences students joining the four-week 2011 Global Citizenship summer institute to study progress in environmental protection and sustainable development in Seoul

During the four weeks of summer institute, students are heavily involved in academic lectures related to the political economy of East Asia. Professional visits to government offices, social service organizations, think tanks, political parties and local communities of indigenous people are also organized in order to develop better understanding of the selected societies.

Please check <http://tl.hku.hk> for the latest information

Copyright (c) Oct 2011 All Rights Reserved
The University of Hong Kong
Pokfulam, Hong Kong

